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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

6 March 1968

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Bloc Leaders Arrive in Sofia For Summit Meeting

Leaders of the seven active members of the Warsaw Pact gathered in Sofia on 6 March to begin the ninth meeting of the Pact's Political Consultative Committee. Each country is represented by its party first secretary, Premier, Defense Minister and Foreign Minister with the exception of the East German Foreign Minister who is touring the Far East. The meeting is expected to last until Friday, according to an AP report.

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COMMENT: No agenda has been announced for the conference but nonproliferation, the German problem and Vietnam will probably highlight the discussions at the meeting which reportedly was arranged at the request of Bucharest. According to the articles of the Warsaw Treaty the Political Consultative Committee is obligated to meet at least twice a year and may convene as frequently as its members deem necessary. However, the Committee has never met biannually, the last meeting was in July 1966 in Bucharest.

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25X1East German Foreign Minister Continues Jaunt

The peripatetic Foreign Minister of the GDR, Otto Winzer, arrived in Phnom Pehn on 2 March to begin a scheduled eight day stay in Cambodia. Winzer arrived in Phnom Pehn after spending two days in Egypt and a week in Burma.

Neues Deutschland on 3 March carried an "exclusive" interview with Winzer in which the Foreign Minister stated that the development of GDR-Burmese relations was an "important" subject of his discussions with the Burmese Foreign Minister and other ministry officials, and that all had agreed relations should be developed further. None of Winzer's comments indicated that his attempt to convince the Burmese and other third world countries of the value of recognizing the GDR had met with success.

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GRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

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Meanwhile, the East German delegation which has visited Syria returned to the GDR on 29 February with only an agreement to "consolidate existing cooperation" between the SED and the Baath Party. [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: Winzer's scheduled itinerary includes a four-day stay in India (Bombay and Dehli) and then a one-day visit to Moscow. He may do nothing more in the USSR capital then wait for a return flight to East Berlin. [REDACTED]

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Still Quiet In Berlin

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On 4 March the Soviet Ambassador to East Germany, P. A. Abrasimov, added another statement to the list of public declarations on Bundestag activities in West Berlin, attacking the Bundestag Week as a "new revanchist demonstration of the ruling circles of West Germany." Abrasimov warned that Bonn "assumes full responsibility for possible undesirable consequences of its activities."

The Berlin Mission commented that Abrasimov's use of the word "possible" and the fact that the Soviet statement took the form of a general public declaration rather than a note to the Allies suggests the Soviets do not intend to engage in harassments.

Meanwhile, the Bundestag continues to conduct its business in routine fashion. Meetings were held on 5 March of the Bundestag working groups, the full Fraktionen of all three parties, and the executive committee of the SPD. The Chancellor arrived on the 5th, and apparently attended the Fraktion meeting of the CDU. Spokesmen of all three parties also made pro forma statements defending the right of the Bundestag to meet in Berlin. [REDACTED]

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Final Communique of Budapest Consultative Meeting

The Budapest Consultative Meeting ended yesterday and the final communique was broadcast late last night by Hungarian Radio. The communique calls for an International Communist Conference to be held this November or December in Moscow and invites all communist and workers parties to attend. The agenda of the ICC "will consist of a single question; the tasks of the fight against imperialism in the present phase and the unity of action of the communist and workers parties and of all anti-imperialist forces." The communique also noted the creation of a preparatory commission which will sit in Budapest and scheduled the first session of the meeting for 24 April. The message of solidarity with the Vietnamese people which was written at an earlier session was also mentioned in the communique. There was no mention of the Rumanian walk-out, despite reports of a Soviet attempt to censure the Rumanians.

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Yugoslavs to Voice Reservations on NPT

Yugoslavia's silence on the nonproliferation treaty (NPT) at this point should not be regarded as consent to the present draft, according to assistant foreign secretary Dimce Belovski. Belovski added that until now Belgrade has not wished to impede progress towards a treaty, but that it does have reservations which it will make known in a few weeks. The Yugoslavs predicted, however, that the treaty would be ratified by the end of 1969 if the US and the USSR press hard for it.

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COMMENT: Last September a high-ranking Yugoslav diplomat assured the embassy that Yugoslavia would support the treaty, but added that the Yugoslavs were concerned about the question of the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and security guarantees for the non-nuclear powers.

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Soviets Criticized in New East German Film

A new East German film, which the Mission found to be the best thing the GDR film makers have ever done, is being acclaimed by East Berlin press despite scenes

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casting the Soviets in a bad light. The film, titled Ich War Neunzehn (I Was Nineteen), concerns the son of a German emigrant to the USSR who returns to Germany as a Soviet Army agitprop officer in 1945. Described as skillful and surprisingly honest, the film provides a glimpse of a few days in the life of a 19-year-old Russian-German officer.

The dilemma over what possible future the young officer can have in a Germany which had perpetrated such a monstrous war rises before him. Why and how did Nazism happen? What makes the Germans so amenable to war? Are there enough good Germans left to form a reasonable German nation? While none of these questions is especially new, it is unusual that an East German film treats the subjects in a straightforward manner, avoiding any attempt to answer them with the standard homilies about the wonders of Communism which have afflicted previous East German films of this genre.

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COMMENT: The regime may feel that a film of this type can weaken the popular complaint that the GDR is too subservient to Moscow and perhaps instill a modicum of nationalistic feeling for the "rump" German state. While such action could be placed in the category of independent thought and nationalistic fervor that presently seems to be gripping other parts of Eastern Europe, there is little reason to believe the Soviets have anything to fear from the East Germans on this score.

NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
ONLY THE ANALYSIS OF THE EE DIVISION